

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 18, 2004. Claims 1-16 remain in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 9 are the independent Claims. Claim 9 has been amended to correct minor typographical errors as indicated below. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to for an informality. In response, Applicant has amended the specification according to the Examiner's suggestion. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above objections are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 3-16 were indicated to be allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner and formally recognizes the allowed Claims 3-16.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over USPN 5,705,021 (Wurz). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that the claims herein are patentable in light of the arguments below.

The Wurz Reference

Wurz is directed to a label applicator for applying a label to an article, such as a box, in motion along a given path. An articulated label transport means receives, retains the label, and moves to an article intercept position to apply the label to the moving article. (*See, Wurz, Col. 2, lines 14-27*).

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

The present application is generally directed to sealing preparation for photovoltaic modules.

As defined by independent Claim 1, a sheet set apparatus for sealing preparation performs sealing preparation of a photovoltaic portion disposed on one surface of a substrate. A pair of lead wires is connected to the portion and has one-end portions forming output lead wires. A sheet supply section is disposed along a transport way for transporting the substrate with the one surface facing upwards. The output lead wires remain disposed at an upstream position with respect to a transport direction and feeds a sheet from a roll. A sheet cutting section cuts a sealing sheet to be set on the substrate from a fed portion of the sheet. A sheet set section includes a transfer head of a vacuum suction type with a plurality of suction holes formed in a lower surface thereof. A head moving device is provided to reciprocate/move the head over a sheet receiving position in the sheet cutting section and a sheet covering position in the transport way. A head elevating device is provided to raise/lower the transfer head in both positions. The transfer head attracts the sealing sheet from above at the sheet receiving position and stops attracting the sheet when the head reaches the sheet covering position.

The applied reference of record does not disclose or suggest the above features of the present invention. In particular, the applied reference of record does not disclose or suggest, "a sheet cutting section which cuts a sealing sheet to be set on said substrate from a fed portion of said sheet," as required by independent Claim 1.

Wurz is directed to a label applicator for applying a label to an article, such as a box, which is in motion along a given path as shown in Fig. 1. A label transport means receives and retains the label and then moves to an article intercept position, where it applies the label to the moving article. (*See, Wurz, Col. 2, lines 14-27*).

After applying labels to the articles, an electronic rotary cutter assembly cuts down the continuous strip of backing into small pieces for easy disposal. Wurz teaches that the labels are peeled away from a backing paper prior to application to the article, and that the discarded backing paper is subsequently cut down after application of a plurality of labels. (*See, Wurz, Col. 3, lines 50-53*). Wurz does not disclose or suggest a sheet cutting section as required by the claims of the present invention. Wurz discloses that the backing paper 73 is discharged from the label 15. However, the label is not cut from the backing paper 73. (*See, Wurz, Col. 3, lines 65-66*). Although Wurz discloses that the backing paper is cut, the backing paper 73 is cut for easy disposal and not cut for a sheet set. (*See, Wurz, Col. 3, lines 50-52*).

In contrast, the present invention, as recited by independent Claim 1, requires cutting a sealing sheet to be set on a substrate. The sealing sheet forms a sealing layer on the substrate such that a plurality of photovoltaic cells are sealed between the substrate and the sealing layer. (*See, Specification, page 18, lines 14-20*). This results in more efficient operation of the invention method compared to that of the Prior Art. Accordingly, Wurz does not meet all the required limitations of the claims of the present invention.

Since the applied reference of record does not disclose or suggest the above features recited in independent Claim 1, this reference cannot be said to anticipate nor render obvious the invention which is the subject matter of that claim.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

The remaining rejected Claim 2 depends directly from independent Claim 1 and recites additional features of the invention which are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied reference of record and is, therefore, also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Non-Analogous Art

It is well-settled that "in order to rely on a reference on a basis for rejection of an applicant's invention, the reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the invention was concerned." See MPEP §2141.01(a).

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied Wurz reference which concerns a label applicator, is not analogous to the field of the present invention. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 based on the Wurz reference be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6809 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

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